

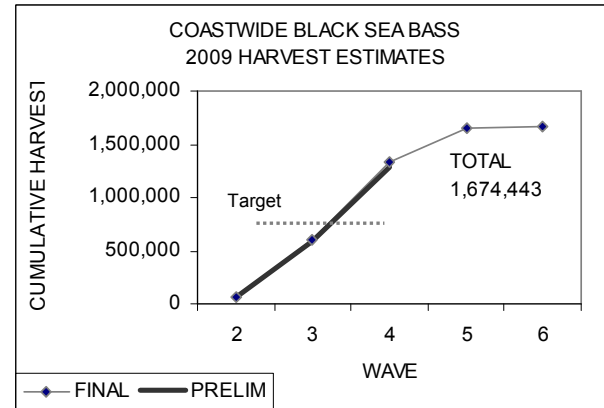
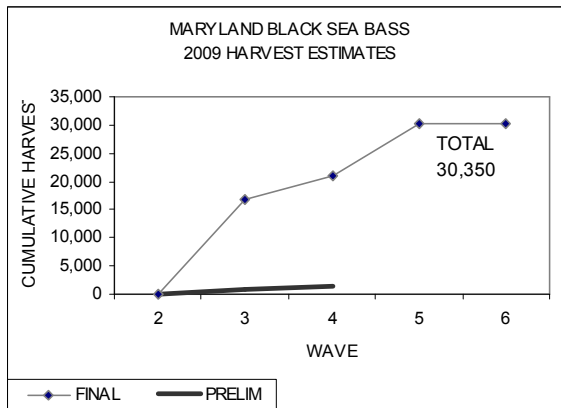
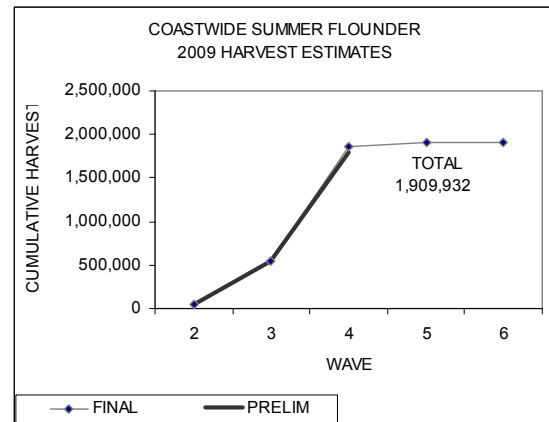
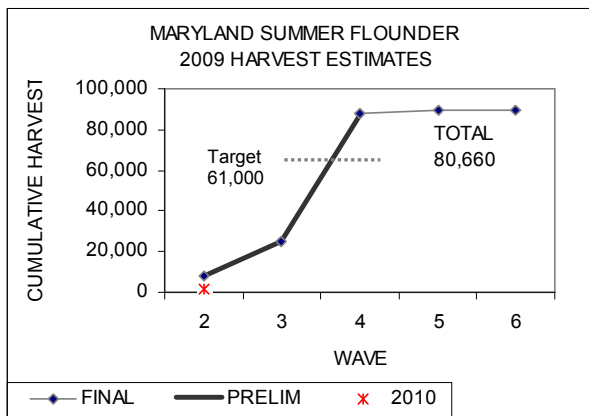
Memo

To: Coastal Fisheries Advisory Committee
From: Dr. Linda Barker
CC: Mike Luisi, Carrie Kennedy, Tom O'Connell
Date: July 2010
Re: Comparison of Preliminary and Final Recreational Harvest Estimates for Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass:

Comparison of Preliminary and Final Recreational Harvest Estimates For Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass:

The NMFS website produces preliminary catch estimates approximately 2 months after each wave. Final estimates are produced in the spring of the following year, and are sometimes significantly higher than the preliminary estimates. One reason for this is trips in federal waters are reported through the Northeast (Maine-Virginia) Vessel Trip Reporting Program (VTR). These "Federal Trip Reports" are due annually in April of the following year (like your taxes), and so are not included in preliminary estimates. At the coastal scale, the preliminary and final estimates are very close. In addition, state-level preliminary harvest estimates are fairly close to final estimates for species that are caught predominantly in state waters (Chesapeake Bay, Coastal Bays and within 12 miles of the coast). However, state-level preliminary estimates for species that are caught primarily farther offshore can be expected to be significantly lower than final harvest estimates.

We took a look at the 2009 estimates for summer flounder (caught primarily in state waters) and black sea bass (caught primarily further offshore) and saw these patterns.



These results indicate that preliminary estimates are reasonably close to the final estimates for summer flounder at the state and coastwide scale, but preliminary estimates for black sea bass significantly under-represent the harvest of black sea bass at the state scale. (As we have discussed at length, the MRFSS is designed to produce reasonable estimates at the coastwide, annual scale). Unfortunately, the preliminary estimates are too late to provide guidance for in-season quota management.

We also took a look at 2010 harvest progress vs. 2009. The preliminary wave 2 harvest estimate for Summer Flounder is 1,888, approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ that of 2009. Thus far, there is no published Black Sea Bass harvest.